

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 16 have been amended and claims 18 and 19 will have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Present Amendment is proper for entry

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant amendment is proper for entry after final rejection. Applicant notes that no question of new matter is presented nor are any new issues raised in entering the instant amendment of the claims and that no new search would be required. Moreover, Applicant submits that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to enter the instant amendment, consider the merits of the same, and indicate the allowability of the present application and each of the pending claims. Applicant notes, in particular, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to recite features already considered by the Examiner and that new claims 18 and 19 recite features which are similar to those which have been considered by the Examiner in other pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 17 contains allowable subject matter. However, Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

Claim Objection

Claims 13-17 were objected to for minor informalities. Applicant submits that the claim objection has been rendered moot.

By this Amendment, claim 13 have been amended in a manner which resolves the basis of the objection.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the above-noted claim objection.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,315 issued to Grois, *et. al.* ("Grais"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 7

Claims 1 and 7 are directed to a strain relief clamp that includes a transparent portion. In particular, representative claim 1 recites, in pertinent part that the strain relief clamp includes:

a transparent portion through which the marking of interest on the cable is visible when the strain relief clamp is installed on the connector.

This feature is clearly not shown or suggested in the combination of AAPA and Grois. Contrary to the present invention, AAPA is merely directed to the marking of cables. The AAPA does not disclose any use of marking with respect to connectors and more specifically strain relief clamps. This is buttressed by the Examiner's statement

that the AAPA does not disclose a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion through which a marking of interest on a cable is visible when the strain relief claim is installed on a connector.

Applicant acknowledges that Grois discloses a fiber optic connector 20 made up of a base housing 22 and a flat slidable cover 24 and a strain relief 74 (see Fig. 1). Applicant also acknowledges that the strain relief 74 is mounted to the connector 20 and that the connector 20 utilizes a transparent window 80. However, in contrast to the instant invention, Grois teaches to arrange the transparent window 80 on the connector 20 and not on the strain relief 74.

Applicant emphasizes that claims 1 and 7 clearly recite that it is the strain relief clamp that includes the transparent portion. Grois, on the other hand, clearly teaches to utilize a transparent window 80 on the connector 20. The strain relief 74 is not disclosed as having any transparent portion.

Consequently, even if Grois and the AAPA were combined, the combination would not result in the invention as recited in claims 1 and 7.

Applicant further notes that, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is incumbent upon the Examiner to provide a reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to modify a prior art reference or to combine reference teachings to arrive at the claimed invention. To this end, the requisite motivation must stem from some teaching, suggestion or inference in the prior art as a whole or from the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art and not from Applicant's disclosure. Applicant respectfully asserts that neither AAPA nor Grois set forth any such motivation.

In this regard, there is nothing in AAPA that teaches or even suggests using cable marking with respect to a strain relief clamp having a transparent portion. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion of using the transparent window of Grois for anything other than viewing the spread of cables in the connector. One of ordinary skill would have no motivation to combine these references in the manner indicated by the Examiner; that is for viewing markings on the cable through the strain relief clamp.

Because, there is no suggestion or disclosure in AAPA or Grois separately or in any proper combination that render obvious the features of the present claimed invention, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Thus, claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the combination of AAPA in view of Grois. Moreover, claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is also allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for its added features.

Claim 2

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Grois, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,897 to Beier et al. ("Beier"). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant notes that claim 2 depends from allowable claim 1, and as such, includes all the elements thereof.

Applicant acknowledges that Beier discloses a connector having a strain relief 46 (see Fig. 1). Applicant also acknowledges that the strain relief 46 has an antikink

portion. However, in contrast to the instant invention, Beier, like AAPA and Grois, also lacks any transparent portion on the strain relief 46.

Because claim 1 recites at least one novel element (e.g., strain relief clamp having a transparent portion) not disclosed in the AAPA or the cited references, whether alone or in combination, claim 2 is also allowable. Moreover, claim 2 recites additional features including, *inter alia*, a strain relief clamp having an antikink protective sleeve, not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and pass claim 2 to issue.

Claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12

Claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Grois, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,297,816 to Waddington ("Waddington"). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant notes that claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 7, and as such, include all the elements thereof. Because claims 1 and 7 recite at least one novel element (e.g., a stationary, non-movable transparent portion) not disclosed in the AAPA or the cited references, whether alone or in combination, claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 are also allowable.

Moreover, claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 recite additional features including, *inter alia*, the transparent portion includes a transparent ring that is arranged in a groove of the strain relief clamp, wherein the ring is transparent in an area that makes the marking of interest visible when the clamp is installed on the connector, and the ring is substantially opaque elsewhere, and wherein the transparent ring is provided about an entire

circumference of the strain relief clamp, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and pass claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 to issue.

Claims 13-16

Claims 13-16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Grois and Waddington. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 13 is directed to the combination of a connector and a strain relief clamp having a window that is defined by a device which surrounds a circumference of the strain relief clamp. More specifically, claim 13 recites, in part that the strain relief clamp includes:

a window defined by a device surrounding a circumference of the strain relief clamp

As explained above, AAPA does not disclose any use of marking with respect to connectors and more specifically strain relief clamps. Moreover, AAPA discloses no window, much less, one that is defined by a device surrounding a circumference of the strain relief clamp. In fact, the Examiner's admits that the AAPA does not disclose a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion through which a marking of interest on a cable is visible when the strain relief claim is installed on a connector.

Applicant emphasizes that in addition to lacking the feature noted above, Grois merely discloses a fiber optic connector that allows inspection of unmarked, spread-apart optical fibers, which branch out from an end of a fiber optic cable (See column 3, lines 65-67). In Grois, the cover 24 of the connector 20 includes a window 80 and not

the strain relief 74. Moreover, the window 80 is clearly plate shaped and cannot be said to be defined by a device surrounding a circumference of the strain relief clamp.

Waddington is directed to an electrical connector 15, such as a wire-nut for wires that may be transparent. Applicant submits that Waddington discloses no strain relief clamp having a window. Also, Applicant respectfully asserts that the transparent connector housing of Waddington is not the same as a window that is arranged on a strain relief clamp.

Accordingly, nothing in Grois, AAPA, or Waddington discloses or suggests, *inter alia*, a window defined by a device surrounding a circumference of the strain relief clamp as recited by claim 13. Consequently, even if Grois, Waddington, and AAPA were combined, the combination would not result in the invention as recited in claim 13. The Examiner simply must acknowledge that neither the AAPA, nor Grois, nor Waddington discloses a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion or window through which a marking of interest on a cable is visible when the strain relief claim is installed on a connector.

Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable because the combination of AAPA, Grois, and Waddington fail to disclose the features recited therein.

Applicant notes that claims 14-16 depend from allowable claim 13, and as such, include all the elements thereof. Because claim 13 recites at least one novel element (e.g., window arranged on the strain relief clamp) not disclosed in the AAPA or the cited references, whether alone or in combination, claims 14-16 are also allowable.

Moreover, claims 14-16 recite additional features including, *inter alia*, wherein the device is a ring that comprises a transparent portion and an opaque portion, the strain

relief clamp comprises a groove, and wherein the window is rectangular shaped, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and pass claims 14-16 to issue.

New Claims are also Allowable

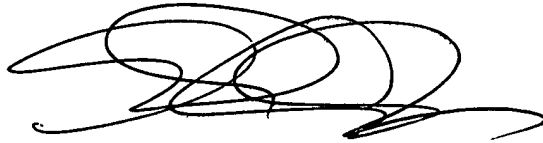
Applicant submits that the new claims 18 and 19 are allowable over the applied art of record. Specifically, claims 18 and 19 depend from claims 1 and 13 which are believed to be allowable. Additionally, claims 18 and 19 recite a combination of features which are clearly not disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of these claims and further request that the above-noted claims be indicated as being allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that all of the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue, and to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to
Deposit Account No. 09-0457 (*Endicott*).

Respectfully submitted,
Manfred BOLDY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

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August 3, 2005
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